The Association of Nova Scotia Midwives Calls on the Nova Scotia Government to Prioritize Pregnant People for COVID-19 Vaccination

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(Halifax, NS) Registered Midwives continue to provide essential care during the response to the unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic. Nova Scotia currently has 17 Registered Midwives who provide primary health care and who work within the Nova Scotia Health in Antigonish and on the South Shore, and with the IWK in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

The Association of Nova Scotia Midwives is aware of the difficulties facing families and health care providers without robust data from clinical trials to inform decision-making about COVID-19 vaccination in pregnant and lactating people. Recommendations can and should evolve as new information becomes available. ANSM supports the inclusion of pregnant people in clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccine options for pregnant people in Canada.

Current evidence suggests that pregnant people who have COVID-19 are more likely to develop respiratory complications requiring intensive care than people who are not pregnant. Evidence also indicates that pregnant people with COVID-19 have increased risks of premature labour, caesarean delivery, and admission to the neonatal intensive care unit for their babies. We have documented community spread of COVID-19 in Nova Scotia, along with isolated cases of variants of concern.

The Association of Nova Scotia Midwives endorses the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy, and calls on the Nova Scotia government and all other provincial and territorial governments to join Ontario and New Brunswick in **immediately prioritizing COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant people**.

ANSM recommends pregnant and lactating people in Nova Scotia consult a primary care provider (RM/NP/FP/OB) regarding vaccine options in the context of their specific clinical situation. ANSM encourages all Nova Scotians to follow advice and guidelines from public health authorities. The latest information from the provincial government is available at https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/.

About The Association of Nova Scotia Midwives
The Association of Nova Scotia Midwives (ANSM) is the provincial organization representing Registered Midwives and the profession of midwifery in Nova Scotia. Our purpose and mission is to provide leadership, support, and advocacy for midwifery as a vital part of the primary health care system.

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